

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUPITER INLET DISTRICT  
MINUTES  
March 8, 2023**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

George Gentile, Chairman  
Michael Martinez, Vice Chairman  
Thomas Howard  
Gail Whipple

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

James H. Davis, Secretary/Treasurer

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Joseph B. Chaison, Executive Director  
William R. H. Broome, Attorney  
Ken Craig, PE, Taylor Engineering

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Angel Gardner  
Scott Case  
Virgil Versaggi  
Yaro Concepción

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Gentile called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

**2. Comments from the Public**

None.

**3. FDOT U.S.1 Bridge Replacement Presentation**

Florida Department of Transportation gave a presentation to the Board about the U.S.1 Bridge and its plans for the 20-month detour. The video included in the presentation described the detour traffic modifications. Vice-Chairman Martinez asked whether the new draw bridge

would be up for the entire closure; FDOT confirmed that at least one side of the bridge will stay in the open position at all times. Chairman Gentile inquired about when the traffic signal A1A in Tequesta will be operational; FDOT stated that it would be operational starting Sunday night (March 12<sup>th</sup>). Chairman Gentile also asked about the coordinating of emergency vehicles; FDOT explained that there are systems in place to help with emergency operations.

Vice-Chairman Martinez asked about the clearance of the new bridge; Mr. Case stated that the bridge clearance will increase from 14 feet to 17 feet. The bridge, from its' current midline, will also be 20 feet wider.

In addition, there will be a 6-month moratorium on the Indiantown bridge and will not be opening during rush hours of 7:00-9:00 AM and 4:30-6:30 PM.

The schedule for construction on the U.S. 1 bridge is by 20 months there will be two lanes (one in each direction) open; and all four lanes will be open 10 months after that.

Chairman Gentile thanked the group for their presentation.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

- **February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Whipple noted corrections. Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as amended;**

Commissioner Whipple so **MOVED**; Vice-Chairman Martinez **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, **the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

#### **5. Approval of Bills**

- **Submission of February Bills:**

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the February Bills and the additional Bills as presented.** Commissioner Whipple so **MOVED**; Vice-Chairman Martinez **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, **the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

- **Submission of Payroll, Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for March:**

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the Utility Bills and Health Insurance Invoice for March.** Commissioner Howard so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, **the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**6. Treasurer's Report**

• **Approval February 2023 Treasurer's Report**

Chairman Gentile entertained a **MOTION to approve the February 2023 Treasurer Report.** Commissioner Whipple so **MOVED**; Commissioner Howard **SECONDED**. There being no further discussion, **the MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**7. Executive Director's Report**

**North Jetty Handrail Replacement:**

Mr. Chaison reported that Murray Logan installed the replacement handrail earlier that day (March 8, 2023). Mr. Chaison showed the Board multiple pictures of the North Jetty and they were pleased that the damaged handrail was able to be repaired and reused. Commissioner Howard inquired about the previously discussed floatation devices that had been installed along the North Jetty. Mr. Chaison stated that he did not believe any such equipment is currently installed on JID property on either jetty. Mr. Chaison further noted that he has reminded both the Jupiter Island Beach Club and PBC Ocean Rescue that the District has a policy regarding installations on the jetties, and that submitting a request is the first step in that process.

**500 N. Delaware Property:**

Mr. Chaison informed the Board that the Town of Jupiter is soliciting bids for the demolition of the derelict buildings and radio tower utility structures on site. A pre-bid site visit was conducted on March 1<sup>st</sup>, bids are due on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Loxahatchee River / Jupiter Inlet - Biennial Boat Tour:**

Mr. Chaison stated that May 9<sup>th</sup> was selected for the boat tour and confirmed tides, tour boat availability, and lunch location. The District will notice the event in the Palm Beach Post and follow previous recommendations from counsel. A preliminary guest list is being developed with Commissioner input. The boat holds 24 passengers

**Inlet Study / Sediment Budget Hydrographic Survey:**

Following Board recommendation, Mr. Chaison coordinated with Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District (LRECD) to determine if there were additional areas the District could incorporate into the survey that could be useful for any potential future nutrient reduction efforts. LRECD suggested nine canal systems that may be impacted by surface stormwater runoff. The incremental cost to our survey would be an additional \$4,500. Commissioner Howard voiced his support for the additional survey and possible projects in the future pertaining to

nutrients in the water. Commissioner Howard recalled the District's documented position against performing dredging projects to benefit residential canals. The Commission gave its consensus to move forward with the additional portion of the bathymetry survey.

**2023 Sand Trap Dredging:**

Mr. Chaison stated that technical and contractual details will be covered in the Engineer's Report. Of note, the first leatherback sea turtle of the season in the Inlet's vicinity occurred on February 28<sup>th</sup> in Juno Beach. This triggered certain monitoring requirements which were anticipated and included in the Sand Trap Dredging contract. Coordination with municipalities, stakeholders, marine law enforcement, ocean rescue, and parks has been performed ahead of the inlet dredging.

**Inlet Management Plan Study / Sediment Budget Update:**

This will also will be covered in the Engineer's Report. Of note, we had excellent turnout and participation by our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members, and the State specifically confirmed that the study efforts themselves are eligible for 50% cost-sharing reimbursement.

**Office Landscaping Update Project:**

Mr. Chaison has gathered four proposals for updating the office landscaping with native plantings. This would accomplish the two goals of installing attractive low-maintenance landscaping and serving as a native planting showcase. Chairman Gentile expressed his desire to go over each proposal in detail and would provide his input at the next Board meeting.

**8. Engineer's Report**

**General Engineering**

*Jetty Observation*

Mr. Craig performed the Jetty Observations on March 8<sup>th</sup>. He reported that there is a lot of sand along the north side of the Jetty. Vice-Chairman relayed a report he had received from a local charter captain of shallow shoal depths within the inlet. Mr. Craig explained the last survey of the Sand Trap occurred on December 12<sup>th</sup>, but the pre-construction survey will be taking place in the near future. He reiterated that there has been a large amount of sand both north and south of the inlet, which would create the opportunity for sand migration into the inlet. The pre-construction survey will give the data to confirm the current conditions.

**Loxahatchee River Mile 6 Gap Closure and Oxbow Restoration Maintenance:**

Mr. Craig stated that there has been no change in the status of the application.

**Jupiter Inlet Jetties Restoration:**

Mr. Craig discussed the possibility of a sleeve to be installed underneath the walkway at the inlet for future dredging projects. Atlantic Gulf Dredging (ADG) has given the District an estimate, however, the project would require a CCCL permit which will take time. Mr. Craig brought this in front of the Board for their consideration, as it would assist in minimizing the disruption to public access during the dredging period. The Jetty Restoration project could also serve as an opportunity to also make this improvement. A discussion took place and it was decided more information would be needed.

In addition, Taylor Engineering is moving forward with 90% drawings this month for the restoration project.

**Jupiter Inlet Sand Trap Dredging 2023:**

The pre-construction meeting took place March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Craig reported that it was well-attended and productive. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) from the FDEP is expected by the end of this week. Once that happens the District will give NTP to AGD. Their proposed schedule to dredge begins March 26<sup>th</sup> with completion by April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Sediment/Inlet Study 2023:**

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting took place on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with representatives from JID, Taylor Engineering, FDEP, USACE, Palm Beach County, Town of Jupiter, Village of Tequesta, Jupiter Inlet Colony, and Florida Inland Navigation District participating. Field work will also begin in the next few weeks.

Of note, the Seagrass Survey Presentation will be rescheduled to the April Board Meeting.

Commissioner Howard inquired about the lack of vegetation on the Moonshine Creek Oxbow restoration. Mr. Craig noted that the construction sequence precluded installing vegetation. Mr. Craig also stated that he would investigate alternatives for vegetating the area to present a more natural appearance to the oxbow.

**9. Legal Report**

Mr. Broome had nothing additional to report.

**10. Unfinished Business**

Legislative Update – The Jupiter Inlet District Local Bill is now House Bill 945 and the staff is tracking its progress. It was referred to the House Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee, earlier this week. The Local Admin subcommittee is scheduled to meet next Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The agenda for which bills are to be heard will be published on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 pm. Mr. Pinsky is planning to speak with Representative John Snyder next week to discuss the Bill. There are currently 44 bills in that subcommittee waiting to be heard, 12 of which are local bills.

**11. New Business**

None.

**12. Commissioner Reports**

**Commissioner Whipple**

None

**Commissioner Martinez**

None.

**Vice Chairman Howard**

None.

**Treasurer Davis**

None.

**Chair Gentile**

None.

**13. Next Meeting Date(s)**

Regular Board Meeting- April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Gentile called for a **MOTION to Adjourn**. Vice-Chairman Martinez so **MOVED**; Commissioner Whipple **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.



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George G. Gentile, Chairman

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Michael Martinez, Vice Chairman